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THREE NEW SUBSPECIES OF PHILIPPINE BIRDS

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Subsequent to the publication of *Philippine Birds* (duPont 1971), the Delaware Museum of Natural History (DMNH) has received shipments of bird specimens from several islands of the Philippines that were previously inadequately represented in collections. Through the courtesy of John E. duPont I have been able to study these collections. Additional material of one species, *Stachyris capitalis,* was examined at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. (USNM). These studies have revealed the existence of three previously undiscovered subspecies.

Measurements and weights in this paper are given in metric units except for altitudes quoted from collectors' original labels, given in feet.

Stachyris capitalis (Tweeddale)

When I described *S. c. isabelae* from Basilan (Parkes 1963), I assumed (as had all previous authors) that the birds of this species from the island of Mindanao were identical to those of the island of Dinagat, the type locality of *capitalis.* Dinagat, a relatively small (671 km²) island (see duPont and Rabor 1973 for description) lies only about 7.25 km N of the northernmost point of Surigao, Mindanao. Its faunal affinities have always been judged to be with eastern Mindanao (see various maps in Dickerson 1928), and the only endemic bird subspecies from Dinagat hitherto recognized is *Macronous striaticeps alcasidi* duPont and Rabor, 1973.

Tweeddale (1877) described *"Mixornis? capitalis"* from a single specimen from Dinagat, but by 1881 it had already been attributed also to the islands of Panaon and Leyte. I have already shown (Parkes 1963, 1973) that the Leyte record was erroneous, having been based on a specimen of *Macronous striaticeps.*

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Edward C. Dickinson has examined the alleged Panaon specimen (British Museum [Natural History] 1888.4.20.1128), and finds that it, too, is an example of *M. striaticeps.* The attribution of *Stachyris capitalis* to Basilan by Wardlaw Ramsay (1881), on the other hand, was correct. The species was first collected on Mindanao in 1889 by the Platens (Blasius 1890), and was never really considered a Dinagat endemic.

Comparison of the recently received DMNH series from Dinagat with specimens from many localities on Mindanao reveals that the populations on that large island differ from true *capitalis* of Dinagat. Differentiation from *capitalis* and from *isabelae* of Basilan is best developed in southeastern Mindanao, so a holotype from that area has been selected. The Mindanao race may be called:

Stachyris capitalis euroaustralis, new subspecies

HOLOTYPE: DMNH 13770, adult male, collected at Kablon, Mt. Matutum, Tupi, Cotabato, Mindanao Island, Philippines, on 3 June 1966, by D. S. Rabor (collector's number 46899).

DIAGNOSIS: Differs from *capitalis* of Dinagat and *isabelae* of Basilan in having the chest heavily suffused with gray and the sides and flanks extensively gray, reducing thereby the cream-colored area of the abdomen. The under tail coverts are predominantly gray rather than of the same cream color as the abdomen. The crown color is more orange-brown, less chestnut than in *capitalis,* approaching that of *isabelae.* The dorsal streaking, on the other hand, is more like that of *capitalis,* less heavily developed than in *isabelae.* Sex for sex, culmen (from base) measurements of Mindanao birds were smaller than those of Dinagat *capitalis,* showing no overlap in the relatively small series measured. In flattened wing measurements there was substantial overlap, but again the Mindanao specimens averaged smaller. In body weight as recorded on labels (sexes combined), Mindanao birds averaged slightly lighter (see Table 1 for measurements and weights).

RANGE: Island of Mindanao, Philippines. Some specimens from the northeasternmost provinces of Surigao and Agusan (i.e, nearest to Dinagat) approach *capitalis* in color and are among the largest Mindanao birds measured. One specimen from Zamboanga (DMNH 13768, Mt. Sugarloaf) is nearest *isabelae* of Basilan, but this is not surprising, as Zamboanga Peninsula birds of several other species are closer to Basilan races than to those of the rest of Mindanao (see faunal subprovinces map in Dickerson 1928, p. 295).

ETYMOLOGY: The name is taken from the Latin *Euroauster,* the Southeast wind, as the characters of the subspecies are best developed in southeastern Mindanao.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED: Dinagat: 11 (DMNH), 2 (USNM). Mindanao, Davao +

Table 1: Measurements and weights of *Stachyris capitalis*
Measurements in millimeters to nearest 0.5, weights in grams

	N	Mean	S.D.	Range
Dinagat				
Wing (flat), male	7	72.3	1.8	69-75
Wing (flat) female	5	70.3	2.1	68.5-74
Culmen from base, male	8	16.3	0.7	15.5-17.5
Culmen from base, female	5	16.9	0.4	16.5-17.5
Weight (sexes combined)	6	16.1	1.6	14.5-19
SE Mindanao				
Wing (flat), male	14	70.5	1.9	67-73
Wing (flat) female	5	68.7	2.0	66-70.5
Culmen from base, male	10	14.7	0.7	13.5-15.5
Culmen from base, female	4	15.0	0.9	14-16
Weight (sexes combined)	24	14.6	0.9	13.5-16
NE Mindanao				
Wing (flat), male	4	71.0	1.1	69.5-71.5
Wing (flat) female	6	68.7	0.9	67-69
Culmen from base, male	4	15.0	0.4	14.5-15.5
Culmen from base, female	6	15.5	0.8	14.5-16
Weight (sexes combined)	12	14.5	1.1	12.5-16.5

Cotabato (SE): 5 (DMNH), 22 (USNM). Mindanao, Agusan + Surigao (NE): 2 (DMNH), 10 (USNM). Mindanao, Zamboanga del Sur: 1 (DMNH). Mindanao, scattered additional localities: 5 (DMNH), 1 (USNM).

Orthotomus derbianus Moore

The holotype of *Orthotomus derbianus* was a specimen in the Liverpool Museum, collected by Cuming (whose localities were often inadequately or erroneously recorded), that Moore attributed to the Philippines with a query. DuPont (1971) restricted the type locality to Luzon. As a similar species of *Orthotomus* also occurs on Luzon, a further restriction would seem desirable, and I hereby designate the type locality of *Orthotomus derbianus* Moore, 1855, as "vicinity of Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands."

A minor correction is appropriate here. Parkes (1971) and duPont (1971) gave the date of publication of *Orthotomus derbianus* as "1854." The name appeared in the proceedings of the Zoological Society of London's meeting of 12 December 1854, but these proceedings were not published until 8 May 1855. The date is correctly given as 1855 by Watson (1986).

Until 1971, *O. derbianus* was considered to be conspecific with the widely distributed *O. atrogularis,* of which the representative in northern Luzon is *O. a. chloronotus* Ogilvie-Grant. I demonstrated (Parkes 1971) that these two tailorbirds were sympatric in Laguna Province, at the east side of Laguna de Bay. At that time I did not discuss altitudinal distribution, and have subsequently been asked whether the two forms might be altitudinally isolated in the areas of apparent sympatry. Elevations noted on labels of specimens in the DMNH demonstrate that there is no clearcut altitudinal separation between these forms. At Pakil, Laguna, *chloronotus* was collected at 50 and 100 feet elevation and *derbianus* at 1100 feet, whereas in the vicinity of Pangil, Laguna, *chloronotus* was collected at 1000 feet and *derbianus* at between 10 and 200 feet and between 1000 and 1200 feet.

With its removal from the species *O. atrogularis, O. derbianus* was believed to be monotypic. My study of the recently received DMNH series of this species from Catanduanes revealed that the tailorbirds of that island constitute a recognizable subspecies, which may be known as:

Orthotomus derbianus nilesi, new subspecies

HOLOTYPE: DMNH 67846, adult male, collected at Bate, Bato, Catanduanes, Philippines, altitude 200', 20 July 1979, by Filipino collectors for the DMNH.
DIAGNOSIS: Similar to *O. d. derbianus* of Luzon, but males appearing darker below owing to narrower white streaking, especially on throat; olivaceous wash on flanks found in most *derbianus* males lacking in *nilesi.* Yellow edging of remiges and coverts slightly brighter. Females, which are paler than males, differ similarly, and in fact resemble males of *derbianus.* The relatively few specimens with unworn tails suggest that *nilesi* has a larger and more distinct blackish subterminal spot on the rectrices, which would fit in with the increased pigmentation of the underparts.
RANGE: Catanduanes Island, Philippines.
ETMOLOGY: This subspecies is named for Dr. David M. Niles of the DMNH, who has been consistently and generously helpful to my research on Philippine birds.
SPECIMENS EXAMINED: *derbianus*: Luzon 43; *nilesi*: Catanduanes, 21.

Dicaeum pygmaeum (Kittlitz)

The Babuyan Isands of Fuga and Calayan lie north of Luzon, and demonstrate a moderate amount of avifaunal endemism. Salomonsen (1960) examined a single male of *Dicaeum pygmaeum* from Fuga and a single female

from Calayan (misspelled "Caleyan" by Salomonsen). On this basis, he suggested the possibility that the populations of this species in the Babuyanes "may constitute a slightly different subspecies." He stated that they were "slightly larger" than typical *pygmaeum,* but his Fuga male was 1 mm. shorter in wing length than his largest Luzon *pygmaeum,* and the Calayan female only 0.5 mm. longer in wing than a female from Sibuyan. It is clear that separation of a race from the Babuyanes would have to rest on color rather than size characters. Salomonsen described the Fuga male as having "distinctly more gloss on the mantle and back, a deeper orange-vinaceus [*sic*] tinge on the under parts, slightly darker olive flanks, and the dark longitudinal patch on the center of the lower breast and abdomen more well marked and distinct than do males of typical *pygmaeum*." He did not describe the Calayan female. In his account of the Dicaeidae in the "Peters" Check-list, Salomonsen (1967) listed the Babuyan populations under nominate *pygmaeum* as "subspecies?", although he admitted *D. p. salomonseni* Parkes as the subspecies of northern Luzon, i.e., nearest to the Babuyan Islands.

Receipt by the DMNH of an excellent series of *Dicaeum pygmaeum* from Fuga has permitted the evaluation of Salomonsen's suggestions as to the distinctness of this population. Although not exactly conforming to Salomonsen's description of the one male he examined, the Fuga birds do prove to represent a distinct subspecies, which may be called:

Dicaeum pygmaeum fugaensis, new subspecies

HOLOTYPE: DMNH 65668, adult male, collected on Fuga Island, Babuyanes group, Philippine Islands, on 2 May 1979, by Filipino collectors for the DMNH.

DIAGNOSIS: adult males are nearest *salomonseni* and *pygmaeum,* but have flanks almost completely gray rather than greenish. The entire dorsum is much blacker than in these races, and is slightly iridescent (especially the crown), thus approaching the blue-black color of the geographically distant subspecies *davao* of Mindanao. The greenish rump area is more restricted and contrasts more with the anteriorly adjacent area of the back, again an approach to *davao,* in which the greenish rump patch is wholly or virtually absent. Adult females and immature males are grayer, less green on the flanks than *salomonseni* and *pygmaeum.* They are somewhat darker dorsally (blacker and less greenish) than in *salomonseni* and much darker than in *pygmaeum,* with the greenish rump patch much reduced. Detailed comparisons with the pale race *palawanorum* Hachisuka of Palawan are not necessary.

RANGE: The island of Fuga in the Babuyanes group, north of Luzon, Philippines. Specimens from other islands in this group were not examined, but would be expected to be referable to this subspecies.

ETYMOLOGY: named for the type locality.
SPECIMENS EXAMINED: *pygmaeum*: Southern Luzon, 15; Catanduanes, 12; Marinduque, 4; Mindoro, 6; Leyte, 3; Cebu, 1. *salomonseni*: Northern Luzon, 12. *fugaensis*: Fuga, 14.
REMARKS: The subspecies *salomonseni* Parkes of northern Luzon, based on material other than that examined for the present study, proves to be somewhat less well differentiated from *pygmaeum* in males than suggested by the original description, in particular the dorsal and flank colors. However, the sides of the head and breast of *salomonseni* are distinctly grayer, less blackish, with less contrast with the pale throat, just as originally described.

As for Salomonsen's description of his Fuga male, I fail to find any deep orange-vinaceous tinge on the underparts, and there is no "dark longitudinal patch on the center of the lower breast and abdomen" in *fugaensis* (as there is in *davao*), although poorly made specimens of both Fuga and Luzon birds may suggest the presence of such a patch.

Salomonsen (1960) suggested that because of the differences between nominate *pygmaeum* and *davao* in ecology and color pattern, the latter form might be treated as a full species. With the description of *fugaensis,* the color differences are substantially bridged, and species status for *davao* on that basis would not be warranted.

Deignan (1961), citing as authority only an unpublished manuscript of his own, placed *Dicaeum davao* Mearns as a subspecies of *D. ignipectus* rather than of *D. pygmaeum.* Salomonsen (1960) called attention to "striking" similarities between *davao* and *ignipectus,* but maintained the former as a subspecies of *pygmaeum.* That Salomonsen considered the resemblances between *davao* and *ignipectus* superficial or convergent may be deduced from his inclusion of *pygmaeum* (including *davao*) in a "species group *Dicaeum concolor*" that did not include *ignipectus;* the latter he later (Salomonsen 1961) placed in a "superspecies *D. hirundinaceum,*" which he regarded as "the most advanced group within the genus *Dicaeum.*" I have compared *davao* directly with *D. ignipectus,* and find that the former represents merely the intensification of colors and patterns of other races of *pygmaeus,* especially the clearly intermediate *fugaensis.* The chief resemblance of *davao* to *ignipectus* is its black, iridescent back, which is approached in *fugaensis.* There is no indication in *davao* of the red chest of *ignipectus,* and the bills of the two species are quite different in shape, that of *ignipectus* being shorter and heavier than that of *pygmaeum* (including *davao*).

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SUMMARY

Study of recently received Philippine bird specimens in the Delaware Museum of Natural History revealed the existence of three undescribed subspecies: *Stachyris capitalis euroaustralis* of Mindanao, *Orthotomus derbianus nilesi* of Catanduanes, and *Dicaeum pygmaeum fugaensis* of Fuga and probably other islands in the Babuyanes group. The type locality of *Orthotomus derbianus* Moore is formally restricted to "vicinity of Manila, Luzon, Philippines." The proposal that *Dicaeum pygmaeum davao* of Mindanao should be considered a subspecies of *D. ignipectus* is rejected.

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